



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Nez-Lizer congratulate newly-appointed Navajo Area IHS Director Roselyn Tso



PHOTO: (left to right): Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim, newly-appointed Navajo Area IHS Director Roselyn Tso, and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez in Albuquerque, N.M. on July 29, 2019.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer congratulate Roselyn Tso, a member of the Navajo Nation, who was appointed to serve as the director of the Navajo Area of the Indian Health Service. Rear Adm. Michael D. Weahkee, IHS principal deputy director made the announcement on Monday, during the IHS Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC) 4th quarterly meeting in Albuquerque, N.M. where President Nez and Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim are meeting with other tribes and IHS officials.

Tso has recently served as director for the IHS Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes, where she directed a national program and was responsible for a wide range of agency functions

that are critical to the working partnership between the IHS and federally recognized tribes. As Navajo Area director, she will be responsible for providing leadership in the administration of a comprehensive federal, tribal, and urban Indian health care system.

“We congratulate Roselyn Tso on her appointment and we look forward to working with her to address the health needs of the Navajo people. We are very proud to have of our own serve in this position. On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we also thank Capt. Brian Johnson for serving as the acting director for the Navajo Area IHS for the past three years,” said President Nez.

With more than 35 years of service to IHS, Tso brings expertise in policy development and technical assistance concerning Title I Indian Self-Determination contracting.

“It’s great to see another member of the Navajo Nation that went to school to earn her degrees and gained very valuable experience, and now she is coming back to the Navajo Nation to serve her people closer to home – this is a great example for all of our young Navajo people and professionals,” stated President Nez.

“I’m proud to lead the IHS Navajo Area and I’m excited about the opportunity to continue working with our health care partners to provide quality, comprehensive health care for the patients we serve.” Tso said.

Vice President Lizer also stated that he looks forward to building a positive working relationship with Tso and her office to advance the healthcare initiatives to help Navajo communities.

“We have many health needs on the Navajo Nation and we are confident that with the appointment of Roselyn Tso, we can create solutions and partnerships that will benefit the Navajo people for many years,” stated Vice President Lizer.

“Roselyn’s wealth of experience and leadership skills will be a welcome addition to the IHS Navajo Area as we continue to improve and provide access to quality health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives,” said Rear Adm. Michael D. Weahkee, IHS principal deputy director. “I want to congratulate Roselyn on her selection as area director and thank her for her years of dedicated service in fulfilling the IHS mission.”

Tso holds a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies from Marylhurst University in Portland, Oregon, and a master’s degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix, Portland, Oregon.

The Navajo Area HIS delivers health services to over 244,000 American Indians in five federal service units and six tribally operated health care facilities under authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act on and near the Navajo Nation. The IHS Navajo Area serves members of the Navajo Nation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and other American Indian beneficiaries in the area.

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